

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00509 230955Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----128008 230956Z /10

O 230645Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1653
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY APUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0509

EXDIS

LONDON FOR ASST SECY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH UK BC
SUBJ: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

REF: STATE 44077

1. WITH THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT FEB 20, PRESIDENT KHAMA AND LEADING GOB OFFICIALS CAN BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN GABORONE THROUGH MARCH 10, EXCEPT ON WEEKENDS. WE BELIEVE PROPOSED VISIT WOULD BE MOST WELCOME HERE AND THAT PRESIDENT KHAMA WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

2. THE WELCOME NATURE OF THE VISIT WOULD STEM FROM A NUMBER
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OF LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS. FIRST, VISIT WOULD OCCUR AT A TIME OF GLOOMY PROSPECTS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT DUE PRINCIPALLY (IN GOB VIEW) TO JOCKEYING OF NATIONALIST LEADERS FOR POWER AND IRRESPONSIBLE UNCONCERN FOR SUFFERING OF PEOPLE. ALONG WITH POLITICAL MAEUVERINGS ARE CONTINUED GUERRILLA OPERATIONS NEAR BOTSWANA-RHODESIA BORDER WHICH REMAIN A CONSTANT AND UNNERVING REALITY FOR GOB. AS RESULT, GOB MAY WELL SOON ENCOUNTER GROWING

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF ANY REASONABLE PROSPECT FOR PEACE, ESPECIALLY AMID SIGNS THAT SENTIMENT IN OTHER FRONTLINE STATES IS MOVING IN SAME DIRECTION. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION MAKING THE VISIT OPPORTUNE IS THAT IT WOULD SHOW THAT WE VALUE THE FRIENDLY, RELIABLE AND STABLE (IF NOT ALWAYS FORCEFULLY ARTICULATE) REGIME OF PRESIDENT KHAMA AND INTEND TO INVOLVE IT IN DISCUSSIONS TO THE DEGREE JUSTIFIED BY ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION AND RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR U.S. POLICY.
NORLAND

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NNN

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